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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hiroaki KITAHARA *et al.*

Application No.: 10/043,260

Filed: January 14, 2002

For: **LASER-BASED MEASURING
APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Confirmation No.: 4661

Group Art Unit: 2881

Examiner: Unassigned

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Arlington, VA 22202

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO Form-1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A European Search Report dated June 20, 2003 is attached together with the documents listed thereon. The referenced documents are listed on the PTO Form 1449.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Relevance of the documents can be ascertained from the attached Search Report.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that any better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

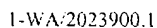
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23. JUN.2003

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Ablage: _____

Datum/Date

20.06.03

Zeichen/Ref./Ref.

P3954 Cs/wi

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°

02001275.3-2213-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Pioneer Corporation

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

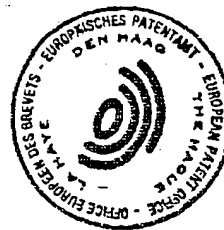
☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

3

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 220 405 A (BARBEE STEVEN G ET AL) 15 June 1993 (1993-06-15) * abstract * * column 2, line 10 - line 56 * * column 6, line 39 - column 7, line 62 * * figure 2 *	1-8	G01B9/02
X	KLOOS G: "DESIGN OF A MICHELSON INTERFEROMETER FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF ELECTROSTRICTIVE STRAINS" OPTICS AND LASER TECHNOLOGY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS BV., AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 28, no. 6, 1 September 1996 (1996-09-01), pages 481-484, XP000627784 ISSN: 0030-3992 * abstract * * page 481, right-hand column, paragraph 4 * * figure 1 *	1-8	
A	US 5 579 109 A (SUH HOSUHNH ET AL) 26 November 1996 (1996-11-26) * abstract * * column 1, line 52 - column 2, line 45 * * column 3, line 25 - column 6, line 2 * * figure 1 *	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G01B G01S
A	US 4 334 778 A (PARDUE ROBERT M ET AL) 15 June 1982 (1982-06-15) * abstract * * column 1, line 24 - line 65 * * column 2, line 53 - column 3, line 50 * * figure 1 *	1,2,5,6	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 11 June 2003	Examiner Kokkonen, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 00 1275

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-06-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5220405	A	15-06-1993	JP	5248817 A	28-09-1993
			JP	8007045 B	29-01-1996
US 5579109	A	26-11-1996	KR	9705500 B1	16-04-1997
			JP	2520855 B2	31-07-1996
			JP	7253305 A	03-10-1995
US 4334778	A	15-06-1982	NONE		